

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O 020926Z SEP 74 ZFF-3

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7535

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 11709

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CB JO SA IS US

SUBJECT: KHMER RELATIONS WITH ARAB STATES

1. TWO HOURS AFTER I DELIVERED LONG BORET'S MESSAGE TO HIM, HOU HONG (MINISTER IN CHARGE OF PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE) RETURNED WITH THE RESPONSE TRANSMITTED BY REF D. AFTER READING THE MESSAGE THE MARSHAL HAD INSTRUCTED HOU HONG TO CONSULT SIRIK MARAK (HIGH ASSISTANT TO PRESIDENT). LATTER WROTE FOLLOWING COMMENT ON LONG BORET'S MESSAGE: QUOTE JE N'AI PAS D'OBJECTION A CE SUJET. J'AVAIS TOUJOURS DIT QU'IL NE FALLAIT PAS INSTALLER NOTRE AMBASSADE EN ISRAEL. (NOUS) CONNAISSONS MAINTENANT LES CONSEQUENCES. IL FAUT MAINTENANT CORRIGER. CES SUGGESTIONS SONT SAGES. UNQUOTE. THE MARSHAL SIGNIFIED HIS AGREEMENT AND ADDED THE NOTATION IN KHMER: QUOTE TO BE ARRANGED WITH ISRAEL. UNQUOTE.

2. HOU HONG IS AT A LOSS AS TO HOW TO CARRY OUT THE MARSHAL'S INSTRUCTIONS TO "ARRANGE" THE MATTER WITH ISRAEL. THE MARSHAL IS APPARENTLY SOMEWHAT SOLICITOUS OF HIS RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL AND HOPES HIS DECISION WILL NOT LEAD TO A BREAK IN RELATIONS. HOWEVER, HOU HONG BELIEVES THAT IF THE ISRAELIS DO NOT AGREE TO THE TRANSFER OF THE EMBASSY TO TEL AVIV, THE EMBASSY MIGHT SIMPLY BE REMOVED, THAT IS, CLOSED DOWN. THE MARSHAL DID NOT WISH TO DELAY AN ANSWER TO LONG BORET UNTIL HE FIGURED OUT HOW TO ARRANGE

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THE MATTER WITH THE ISRAELIS, SO HE DIRECTED THAT THE MESSAGE

BE SENT TO LONG BORET AND THEN LEFT THE ISREALI ASPECT IN
HOU HONG'S LAP.

3. I SUGGESTED TO HOU HONG THAT HE DELAY ANY ACTION WITH REPSECT
TO ISRAEL FOR THE MOMENT, AS IT IS A DELICATE MATTER THAT
REQUIRES SOME THOUGHT. IF THE DEPARTMENT HAS ANY SUGGESTIONS
AS TO HOW THE GKR'S WISH TO MOVE ITS EMBASSY FROM JERUSALEM TO
TEL AVIV MIGHT BEST BE BROACHED WITH THE ISRAELIS, THE GKR WOULD
WELCOME SOME GUIDANCE. NEITHER THE MARSHAL, NOR
ANYONE ELSE HERE, HAS YET TAKEN UNDER CONSIDERATION THE
APPARENT WISH OF THE SAUDIS TO SEE A BREAK IN RELATIONS WITH
ISRAEL, AND THEY WOULD MOST LIKELY PREFER TO AVOID TAKING THAT
COURSE IF POSSIBLE. IT IS NOT CLEAR TO US HERE WHETHER THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA IS DEPENDENT ON A
BREAK WITH ISRAEL.
KEELEY

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